



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. STANLEY BLAKER, M.R.C.P. (Lond).,
——— M.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Lond.) ———

AND OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. ATKINSON, M.S.I.A.
Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute.

FOR THE


COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY

FOR THE YEAR 1923



DUDLEY :
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1924



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1923.

I. ALDERMAN CHAMBERS (Chairman).

2. THE MAYOR.	10. COUNCILLOR GOLDING.
(Ald. T. W. TANFIELD).	11. „ HANSON.
3. THE DEPUTY MAYOR.	12. „ JAKEMAN.
(Ald. H. W. HUGHES).	13. „ LANE.
4. COUNCILLOR B. T. ADSHEAD.	14. „ SMART.
5. „ APPLETON.	15. „ TAYLOR.
6. „ ARNOLD.	16. „ WHITEHOUSE.
7. „ BALLARD.	17. „ WILLETTS.
8. „ BODIN.	18. „ WRIGHT.
9. „ FULLWOOD.	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

1923.

I. ALDERMAN ADSHEAD (Chairman).

2. THE MAYOR.	8. COUNCILLOR WHITEHOUSE.
3. THE DEPUTY MAYOR.	9. „ WILKES.
4. ALDERMAN COOK.	10. „ WILLETTS.
5. COUNCILLOR FULLWOOD.	11. „ WRIGHT.
6. „ SMART.	12. MRS. E. M. ENGLISH.
7. „ SMELLIE.	13. MR. S. FELLOWS.
(Ex-officio)	

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : P. STANLEY BLAKER, M.R.C.P. (Lond.),
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Lond.).

Assistant Medical Officer of Health : AUSTIN FURNISS,
L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.),
L.F.P. & S. (Glasg.),
L.M.S.S.A.,
L.D.S. (Man.), D.P.H. (Man.).

Tuberculosis Officer : DR. LILLEY (Staffs., Wolverhampton and
Dudley Joint Committee).

Venereal Diseases Officer : DR. MENTON, The Guest Hospital.

Chief Sanitary Inspector : FRED ATKINSON, M.S.I.A.
Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitors : NURSE EVANS and NURSE BLACK.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

POPULATION	1891 Census	...	...	...	45,740
„	1901 Census	...	...	...	48,525
„	1911 Census	...	...	...	51,079
„	1912 Estimated at end of June, 1912				51,466
„	1913, estimated	...	...	...	51,966
„	1914, estimated	...	...	...	52,580
„	1915, estimated	...	...	...	52,580
„	1916, estimated	...	...	...	52,580
„	1917, estimated	...	...	...	54,000
„	1918, estimated	...	...	...	54,000
„	1919, estimated	...	...	...	54,000
„	1920, estimated	...	...	...	56,169
„	1921, estimated	...	...	...	57,100
„	1922, estimated	...	...	...	57,860
„	1923, estimated	...	...	...	58,150
ELEVATION	{ Cawney Hill	...	...	820 feet above sea level.	
	{ St. Thomas' Church	...	700	„	„
	{ Eve Hill	...	720	„	„
	{ Netherton	...	610	„	„
	{ Woodside	...	570	„	„
Geological Formation ... Limestone, Carboniferous and Heavy Clays					
Area of the Borough		...	...	...	3,602 acres
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census, 1921				...	11,005
Rateable Value		...	...	...	£192,571
Sum represented by a Penny Rate				...	£675

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.			
Births	Legitimate	1293	627	666	Birth Rate		22.7
Births	Illegitimate	21	6	15			
Deaths	... ..	730	380	350	Death Rate		12.61
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth : —							
	From sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1
	From other causes		...	...	...	...	5
Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—							
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	113
	Infantile Mortality Rate			...	...	...	86.00
Deaths from	Measles (all ages)			...	...	...	55
„	Whooping Cough (all ages)				...	...	3
„	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)					...	21
Death Rate from 7 principal Zymotic Diseases							
Influenza Death Rate			...	...	...	...	.16
Tuberculosis Death Rate			...	...	...	...	.78
Total Deaths under 5 years of age				...	...	...	223

ANNUAL REPORT

*of the Medical Officer of Health
for the County Borough of Dudley.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the County Borough of Dudley.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present herewith the Annual Report upon the Health and Vital Statistics of the Borough for the year 1923.

This Report will be an ordinary Report as defined in Paragraph 3 of Circular 269 of December 28th, 1921.

The only fresh development during the year has been with reference to the treatment of Small-pox cases, should any occur in the Borough. This will be noted later in the Report.

The Public Health Staff remains the same.

The Census Population of the Borough in 1911 was 51,079, and in 1921 it had increased to 57,160. The estimated population according to the Registrar General's Return for 1923 is 58,150. Steadily the population of the Borough goes on increasing at the average rate of something over 600 per annum. The industries of the town remain the same, as noted in a previous Report.

BIRTHS.

The corrected number of Births for the year 1923 is 1,314 (633 males and 681 females), giving a birth rate of 22.7 per 1,000 on an estimated population of 58,150. There were 131 less births registered in 1923 as compared with 1922, 378 less than 1921, and 415 less than 1920.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1923 was 19.7, as compared with 20.6 in 1922, whilst for 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including Dudley, it was 20.4, as against 21.4 per 1,000.

Last year there were 48 more baby girls than boys. In 1922 and the year before the boys had the numerical advantage.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS. In the total number of births above recorded are included 21 illegitimate babies. In 1922 there were 20, and in 1921, 27.

The Birth Rates for Dudley in recent years have been :—

Year		Total Births		Birth Rate per 1,000
1903	...	1,691	...	33.93
1904	...	1,779	...	35.18
1905	...	1,593	...	30.99
1906	...	1,552	...	29.73
1907	...	1,637	...	31.34
1908	...	1,610	...	30.26
1909	...	1,554	...	28.61
1910	...	1,476	...	27.17
1911	...	1,414	...	27.50
1912	...	1,432	...	27.81
1913	...	1,470	...	28.28
1914	...	1,502	...	28.56
1915	...	1,460	...	27.69
1916	...	1,297	...	24.67
1917	...	1,394	...	25.81
1918	...	1,355	...	25.09
1919	...	1,307	...	24.2
1920	...	1,729	...	30.78
1921	...	1,692	...	29.63
1922	...	1,445	...	24.95
1923	...	1,314	...	22.71

From this Table it will be seen that there has been a very steady decline (except for the years 1920 and 1921) in the Birth Rate, especially when this figure is taken side by side with that of the steady growth of the population. Thus, taking the top and bottom figures of the above Table, it will be seen that the population in 1901 (Census) was 48,525, and in 1923 58,150—a difference of 9,625—yet there were 438 less births in 1923 and a Birth Rate of 13.02 less than in 1902.

DEATHS.

The corrected number of Deaths, taken from the Registrar General's Returns, in Dudley during 1923 was 730, only 9 less than in the previous year. This gives a Death Rate of 12.61 per 1,000 of the estimated population. In 1922 it was 12.77. The Death Rate in England and Wales from all causes in 1923 was 11.6, and in 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns it was 11.6.

The Death Rate in the Borough since 1899 is as follows :—

Year				Death Rate
1899	...	...	...	20.51
1900	...	...	...	20.45
1901	...	...	...	19.25
1902	...	...	...	17.54
1903	...	...	...	19.17
1904	...	...	...	18.82
1905	...	...	...	17.52
1906	...	...	...	16.23
1907	...	...	...	17.32
1908	...	...	...	15.28
1909	...	...	...	15.24
1910	...	...	...	14.25
1911	...	...	...	15.69
1912	...	...	...	15.48
1913	...	...	...	17.53
1914	...	...	...	16.0
1915	...	...	...	16.31
1916	...	...	...	14.97
1917	...	...	...	13.70
1918	...	...	...	18.25
1919	...	...	...	13.44
1920	...	...	...	14.77
1921	...	...	...	11.66
1922	...	...	...	12.77
1923	...	...	...	12.61

MONTHLY DEATH RATE FROM ALL CAUSES.

The figures for the past ten years are given below, but they exclude deaths of non-residents and also deaths of residents dying away from their homes in Dudley.

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	18.0	16.71	17.06	17.01	10.83	14.63	13.9	12.2	19.3	10.3
February	18.51	17.25	14.64	17.55	14.4	19.25	12.0	13.9	23.2	15.3
March	18.01	14.63	16.56	17.3	13.77	19.5	25.0	14.2	14.68	16.3
April	21.01	22.90	14.09	19.77	13.48	21.26	30.8	11.56	15.9	13.8
May	17.01	16.32	17.4	16.4	15.21	14.8	14.2	9.14	11.9	11.5
June	12.4	12.06	14.83	10.13	9.61	7.2	9.6	10.2	7.9	10.2
Jy. & Aug.	9.54	10.38	9.49	8.92	10.4	8.0	9.1	8.2	9.25	11.2
September	11.69	8.9	7.9	8.81	13.96	7.9	9.1	10.7	8.4	8.3
October	9.52	13.84	10.9	8.24	14.0	10.9	10.9	10.8	8.19	6.6
November	14.32	15.32	10.38	9.81	10.47	7.5	11.9	10.2	8.2	11.4
December	14.09	18.05	12.36	10.83	25.27	11.1	12.2	14.1	7.9	12.7

The following table shows the Death Rate in the various Wards of the Borough :

Wards.	Population.	Number of deaths during 1923	Death Rate per 1,000 Deaths.
St. Thomas'	7775	87	11.19
Castle	8599	116	13.49
St. Edmund's	2766	26	9.4
St. James'	6412	48	7.4
St. John's	8792	90	12.3
Netherton	15526	178	11.48
Woodside	6024	61	11.2

If this Table is read in conjunction with a map of the town, it will be seen that the Death Rate bears a significant relation to the proportion of slum areas in the Ward. The lowest Death Rate is in St. James' Ward (7.4) and the highest in the Castle Ward (13.49).

A few brief remarks may here be made with reference to the Death Returns for the year.

MEASLES. In 1922 there were no deaths due to this infectious disease, but in 1923 there were no less than 55 children who succumbed. All these deaths occurred in children who were under 5 years old, and no less than 31 were under 2 years of age.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

TUBERCULOSIS. There were 51 deaths due to all forms of Tuberculosis, of which number 43 had the disease located in the Respiratory system. In 1922 59 deaths were attributed to all forms of Tuberculosis.

BRONCHITIS claimed 73 deaths, 58 of whom were over 45 years of age.

PNEUMONIA—all forms. This very fatal disease accounted for 78 deaths, 44 of these took place under 5 years of age, 29 over 25 years, and 5 between these limits. This shows that pneumonia is a very fatal disease in the very young and in those past middle life.

OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES accounted for 8 deaths. Thus it will be seen that Respiratory Diseases (including Pulmonary Tuberculosis) were responsible for 202 deaths during the year.

CANCER—Malignant Disease. 19 males and 23 females died from this disease—all over the age of 25 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Under 1 year of age the number of deaths registered was 113, and the number of births 1,314. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 86.00. In 1922 there were 127 deaths under 1 year old (14 more than last year), and there were 1,445 births (131 more than last year) registered. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 87.89 for 1922, so that there is some improvement.

The chief causes of Infant Deaths in the year 1923 were :—

Congenital Debility and Malformation,	Premature Birth	44
Measles	...	11
Bronchitis	...	5
Pneumonia	...	8
Diarrhœa	...	15
		—
	TOTAL	83
		—

The remaining 29 deaths were due to other causes.

CONGENITAL DEBILITY, MALFORMATION AND PREMATURE BIRTHS. These accounted for 44 deaths. In 1922 this figure was 60. Congenital Malformations account for a very small percentage of these deaths. Most of them, therefore, are accounted for by Ante-Natal conditions, and for the most part baby deaths due to this cause occur amongst the poor. Insufficient food and hard work during the months of pregnancy, coupled with frequent child-bearing at short intervals between the births—these are the chief factors responsible. What else can be expected when child after child is brought into the world in spite of the fact that the fathers have been out of work for two, three or four years and the family (often times big) is being supported on the un-employment benefit. What health can the mother have under these conditions for bearing fine, healthy, robust babies? Nay, even what health may be left to her, in spite of poverty and drudgery is soon broken up by repeated and frequent child-bearing. What wonder then, that the baby is a poor, weak and debilitated thing, unable even to stand the shock of the beginning of a new life in the world. Some of these deaths, however, would undoubtedly be saved if the actual birth of these babies took place in a well-equipped Maternity Home, where, in spite of their poor and debilitated state, good care and nurture of the mother as well as the baby would do much to tide the new-comer over the first shock of life, and so set it on its way.

MEASLES. 11 babies (under 1 year old) died from this cause. Measles in very tiny babies is always a very serious and even fatal disease. Parents are inclined to treat it lightly, and no effort whatever is made to isolate the baby from another child suffering from the disease. My advice to mothers is to employ every means in their power to postpone an attack of Measles (or any other illness) for as long a period as possible. The older children are the more able are they to stand the tax placed on their vitality to fight the disease.

DIARRHŒA. This disease accounted for 15 deaths. In 1922 there were 10. This cause of death operates for the most part nowadays on babies that are not very strong and robust. The acute Infantile Diarrhœa and sickness of former days, which was such a fatal disease, is fortunately not often encountered in recent years.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS. That is, babies dying within the first month of life. 49 babies of the 113 (43.4%) referred to above died under one month old, and there were 32 of these deaths due to Inanition, Debility, Pre-maturity and Feebleness—all causes produced by Ante-Natal conditions and therefore preventible. Various other causes were responsible for the remaining 17 deaths in this category.

STILL BIRTHS. 39 Still Births were reported to me during the year, 20 by doctors, 19 by midwives. Amongst this number there were :—

- 7 Breech presentations ;
- 3 Transverse presentations ;
- 5 Syphilitic Mothers ;
- 1 Placenta prævia ;
- 1 Deformed pelvis.

Want of nourishment, hard work, worry, prolonged labour, repeated pregnancies, instrumental delivery, etc., were attributed as causes in the remainder.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER. The supply generally has been ample. Samples taken have been found to be pure, though the degree of hardness in the water supplying the west end of the town and which comes from Baggeridge has a very high degree of hardness (on November 13th, 1923, the degree of hardness was 39.6). Representations have been made to the South Staffordshire Water Company with reference to this.

The new Reservoir constructed at Cawney Hill was put into use at the beginning of this year. The capacity of this Reservoir is 1,031,650 gallons, and the source of supply is at Lichfield. Further particulars of this new construction were made in my Report for 1922.

HOUSE REFUSE. The scavenging of the refuse in the Borough is carried out by contract, under the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The household refuse is collected by the Corporation workmen.

In Dudley there are a great many so-called ashpits, but which in reality collect all the refuse of the household for periods of four to six weeks before they are emptied. They exist mostly in the slum areas. I have inspected a great number of these refuse dumps and find them to consist of every description of refuse and garbage. The method of emptying these pits is a most insanitary proceeding, and is detrimental to the health of the town, and it certainly does not foster notions of even the most elementary principles of sanitation in the lives of the inhabitants. The method of emptying the ashpits, to wit, is that the refuse is wheeled out in barrows and dumped in the street, and after a varying interval, is shovelled into the dust cart. In the meantime it forms a plaything for the children and a scrap heap for dogs and poultry.

In my opinion, this insanitary proceeding should no longer be tolerated.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

All the workshops on the Register have been visited during the year, and what defects have been found have been remedied.

The Sanitary Staff of the Borough have carried out Inspections regularly throughout the district. Dilapidations chiefly prevail, the number of these steadily increases to a big and alarming degree.

Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, etc., have been regularly visited.

SCHOOLS. On the whole the health of the Schools has been good during the year. In the early part of the year there was a moderately severe prevalence of Measles, which caused a certain number of deaths in children. It was not, however, necessary to close any of the Schools.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. The supply of this important food product continues to be of good quality, as far as fat content is estimated. 29 samples were taken during the year and sent for analysis. All, except one, were reported to have the required percentage of fat. In the one exception the natural fat was deficient by 8%. The vendor was cautioned. No bacterial examinations were made of any sample of milk.

The milk, *i.e.*, loose milk, is not, however, free from suspended matter. This is obvious to the naked eye in the bottom of every household jug. No examination has been made as to the nature of the composition of this sediment, but it is all extraneous matter which is derived during the milking operation (from the surface of the cow) and after, not forgetting the enormous amount of contamination that takes place in the homes.

Licences for the sale of loose milk should only be granted to people when the conditions of sale and storage are such as will absolutely ensure purity and preservation. During the past year a greater amount of Sterilised Bottled Milk has been used in Dudley. This is all to the good. When it is realised that at least 25 to 30% of dairy cows suffer from Tuberculosis, and that a great number of children suffer from Surgical Tuberculosis (due to the Bovine type of the Bacillus) *i.e.*, of the Glands Bone, Joints, Peritoneum, Skin, etc., surely the time has come for the adoption of some very active and determined measures to ensure a pure and safe supply of this very important and in many cases the only food of the child.

There are only two ways in which this can be done (1) either the milk must be procured from absolutely healthy cows (tuberculin tested) under absolutely clean conditions and immediately bottled, or else (2) the milk must be pasteurised, *i.e.*, it must be raised to a temperature of 140°—145°F and kept at that temperature for half an hour. It must then be quickly bottled and cooled. This degree of heat for half an hour will destroy the Tubercle and all other Bacilli.

Regular inspections of the Dairies and Cow Sheds in the Borough are made by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912-1917.

The information required by these Regulations has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health. Particulars of them will be found elsewhere.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1919.

During the year 1923, 2,911 packets of Dried Milk have been issued to necessitous cases, *viz.* :—

At Dudley	...	1737	1-lb. packets.
At Netherton	...	485	„
At Holly Hall	...	689	„
		—	
TOTAL	...	2911	„
		—	

The total cost for this quantity amounted to £232 18s. 10d., half of which amount is borne by the Ministry of Health. In 1922 the total cost was £316 1s. 4d., and in 1921 £200 14s. 0d. Every necessitous case now is required to complete a Form, setting forth the number of children in the family, with ages and a complete statement of the financial position. This form is filled in every week and checked. If the father happens to be in work, a letter is sent to the employer for corroboration of his statement. This is done in every case without exception. Whenever possible the parents have to pay cost price (*i.e.*, if they cannot afford the retail price) or half cost price for the milk. A report on the distribution of milk is submitted to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee every month.

MEAT.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector carries out to the best of his ability the inspections of the meat supply and also the Slaughter Houses in the Borough, but I venture to think that only a very small proportion of the meat consumed in the town can possibly be inspected by him and passed.

There were in 1923, 14 Registered and 12 Licensed Slaughter Houses. In view of the fact that Tuberculosis is so prevalent a disease amongst cattle and swine, does it not seem reasonable to

ask that *all* meat meant for human consumption should be most rigorously inspected before and after slaughter? And how can this be better done than by having throughout the Country Public Abattoirs, where alone slaughtering must be done under careful and expert supervision? During the War this was done and cannot an Act of Parliament do the same again? That eventually Public Abattoirs will be an institution throughout the country I have no doubt, and the time when this will be an accomplished fact will depend upon the demand made by the Public.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The Report of the work done under this heading is contained in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report appended.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1923.

1.—Milk ; and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.

	(a) Number of Samples examined for the presence of a preservative.	(b) Number in which a preservative was reported to be present.
Milk	28	—
Cream	1	—

2.—Cream sold as Preserved Cream.

- (a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservative were correct—Nil.
- (b) Determinations made of milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream—Nil.
- (c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved Cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed—No samples taken.

- (d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken.

Thickening Substances.—Any evidence of their addition to cream or to preserved cream. Action taken where found.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

Public (Health Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917.

PARTICULARS OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF MILK (1923).

March Quarter :	7 Milk, all Genuine, Preservatives absent.
	4 Condensed Milk, Genuine, Preservatives absent.
June Quarter :	2 Condensed Milk, Genuine, Preservatives absent.
September Quarter :	8 Milk, Genuine, Preservatives absent.
	1 Condensed Milk, Genuine.
December Quarter :	13 Milk, 12 Genuine, free from Preservatives.
	1 Milk (384) Adulterated, Deficient of 8% of its natural milk fat, free from Preservatives. Vendor cautioned.
	2 Condensed Milk, Genuine, Preservatives absent.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year :

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	79
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	7
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	10
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	5

SCARLET FEVER. 64 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year 1922, and in 1921 there were 120. Two deaths were certified as having been due to this disease. Speaking generally the type of disease was very mild and all the cases were nursed at their homes.

TYPHOID FEVER. Only two cases of this disease occurred in the year. One was nursed at home and the other admitted to the Isolation Hospital, where he died from Cancrum Oris (a complication).

DIPHTHERIA. Only seven cases of this disease were notified during the year. One of these cases was notified to me from the Guest Hospital. One case died in the Hospital and two others at their homes. It is a surprising fact to me that Dudley should enjoy practical immunity from this disease when all the neighbouring Authorities have a very much higher figure of incidence.

PUERPERAL FEVER. Only one case. She was removed to the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, but died.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. Three of the five cases were mild and two moderately severe. In none was any damage of the eyes left as a result of the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This work is carried out by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee. In 1923 altogether 85 cases were notified to me, 80 on " A " Form and 5 were entered in the Register from the Death Reports. Of this number 75 were Pulmonary

and 10 Non-Pulmonary. On " B " Form, *i.e.*, those notified by the School Medical Officers, there were 10 cases, all Non-Pulmonary. This makes a grand total of 95 cases—an increase of 26 cases in 1922, and of 36 cases in 1921.

The total number of deaths recorded as being due to Tuberculosis in 1923 was 51, 18 males and 33 females. The total figure is 5 less than in 1922, and 16 more than 1921.

I need say no more here on this subject. A special investigation on the Care of Tuberculosis Patients was made by me and a report thereon presented to the Health Committee early this year, and a copy subsequently circulated to all the members of the Council. In this Report I showed that the prevalence of Tuberculosis was not decreasing in Dudley, and I pointed out that the chief cause operating in this direction was the overcrowding in the one and two bed-roomed houses where Tuberculosis patients sleep with others in the same room and so propagated the disease from one member of the family to the other. Details of the cases visited and a full discussion of the subject will be found in that Report. I feel, however, that I must again reiterate that no definite and marked improvement in the incidence rate of this disease will ever be realised unless with the other matters referred to in the Report, the fundamental factor of improving the housing conditions of the poor people is undertaken by some well thought out scheme. Tuberculosis is most prevalent amongst the poor, *i.e.*, in the slum quarters, and although these are very bad, unless new houses are built and let at such a rental as can be paid by the labourer, the slums will be even worse than they are to-day and they will continue to contribute the greater majority to the Death Rate, to the incidence rate of Zymotic Diseases, Tuberculosis and other diseases.

SMALL-POX.

There were no cases in the Borough, nor were there any contacts traced in this town. About a dozen cases in all occurred in some of the surrounding districts.

STATE OF VACCINATION.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Vaccination Officer of the County Borough of Dudley :

Total Births, 1,311, accounted for as follows :—

Public Vaccinations ...	...	...	325
Private Vaccination ...	...	...	69
Statutory Declaration	...	...	652
Postponements ...	...	...	14
Revivals ...	...	...	37
Deaths not vaccinated	...	...	61
Cases remaining to be accounted for	...	...	153
TOTALS			1,311

Thus it will be seen that only just over 30% of the babies born were actually vaccinated during the year.

During the year an agreement was made with the South Staffordshire Small-Pox Board to take into Moxley Hall (which has been purchased by the above Board as a Small-Pox Hospital) any cases of Small-Pox arising in the Borough. This arrangement was made in consequence of the fact that the old Small-Pox Hospital belonging to the town has now, in immediate contact on two sides, a number of Council houses. This is a very important step in the right direction, especially in view of the fact that we seem to have re-introduced Small-Pox into the Country owing to, in my opinion, the abeyance in which vaccination has fallen.

Why is there this very great objection to being vaccinated? An attack from any infectious disease, such as Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, etc., and including Small-Pox, confers on the individual for a certain period (of varying length) immunity from that particular disease. The Virus (or Lymph) taken from a Cow Pox is the same as the Virus (or Lymph) taken from a Small-Pox patient. The only difference being that the actual Small-Pox Virus is attenuated or weakened by passing through the Cow, and when the latter is again inoculated into man, the weakened Virus, produces the immunity without affecting the individual in the same way as the original Small-Pox Virus would do. Nor can any kind of disease be communicated to man from the calf. Syphilis is out of the question, and any other disease is rendered impossible by the careful preparation of the Lymph.

No, the greatest prejudice against Vaccination is the "bad arms" that follow as a result of vaccination, and people have actually become afraid and nervous. These "bad arms" only occur now and again, but even then, in my opinion, they occur too frequently. If the operation of vaccination is carried out with the strictest aseptic precautions and is treated with the same amount of respect as is due to any major operation, instead of, as is only too often the case, with contempt because of its familiarity; and, secondly, if the arm is well protected and cared for afterwards, to prevent contamination from dirty clothes, etc., subsequent to the operation and till the vaccination marks have quite healed, then, I say, that a "bad arm" should be one of the rarest calamities seen in the whole domain of medical and surgical art. By far the majority of these "bad arms" are due to extraneous infection subsequent to the operation.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The diagnosis and treatment of these diseases is carried out at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, held at the Guest Hospital on three days a week, *viz.*, Tuesdays and Fridays for men from 7 p.m. and on Wednesdays for women and children at 3 p.m. These Clinics are under the supervision of Dr. Menton, the Venereal Diseases expert, who is attached to the Staffordshire County Council, and through the kindness of the latter is permitted to undertake this work at Dudley.

Though the work is carried out at the Guest Hospital, the fact should not be lost sight of that the Local Authority of the Dudley County Borough is solely responsible for the efficient working of the Ministry of Health's scheme for the treatment of Venereal Diseases. When work of this or a similar kind is carried out by an Institution, it is easy to dissociate one's responsibility for its efficient working.

Since Dr. Menton took charge of the Clinics, the work has increased very much. The Clinic has become more popular, as shown by the definite increase in the numbers of new cases, both male and female, and likewise of the increase (by over 1,200) in the total number of attendances for treatment. I visited the Clinic during working hours and my one great comment is that the accommodation is inadequate, and with the steady increase of the

work this inadequacy will become more pronounced. I append below a short account from Dr. Menton of the work done during the year 1923 :—

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Clinics are held at the Guest Hospital, Dudley. Two evening clinics for men and one afternoon clinic for women and children. In addition, the question of intermediate treatment is under consideration and it is hoped to make a beginning in this direction in the new year.

The Annual Return for 1923 shows the following :—Cases seen for the first time, 186 (of which 120 were males and 66 females), this representing an increase of 65 on the previous year. Of this increase 23 were males and 42 females.

The new cases were allocated as follows : Dudley 64, Worcester 27, Staffs. 89, Oldham 1, Essex 1, London 1, West Bromwich 3. The total number of attendances for the same period was 2,954, showing an increase of 1,285 attendances on the previous year. The attendances were allocated as follows : Dudley 992, Worcester 539, Staffs. 1,355, Oldham 3, Essex 1, London 1, West Bromwich 63. The aggregate number of in-patient days was 160, to which Dudley contributed 52 and Staffordshire 108. The total number of doses of arsenobenzal compounds given was 463. The increase in attendances was principally in the latter half of the year. They are still on the up-grade. If this continues the whole scheme will need to be re-considered by the Council from all points of view.

The diseases in both adults and children leave serious disabilities, if not efficiently treated, some of which are blindness, deafness, paralysis, mental troubles and fits, and people so afflicted often become a burden on the rates for the rest of their lives. It is therefore obvious that the expenditure of a few pounds in the early stages is well worth while, and I hope that the Council will take the same view when the scheme comes up for re-organisation.

J. MENTON,

Clinical Officer to the County of Stafford.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1912.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 2nd January, 1923, to 31st December, 1923.

	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED ON FORM A.												NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM B.		No. of Cases Notified on Form C.	
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and upwards	Primary Notifications	5 to 10	10 to 5	Poor Law Institutions.	Sana-toria
Age Periods																
Pulmonary Males ...	—	1	2	1	2	6	8	11	4	1	—	36	—	—	—	31
" Females	—	—	—	3	7	8	10	6	4	1	—	39	—	—	—	10
Non-Pulmonary M.	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	2	—	—
" Females	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	2	—	—
TOTALS	1	2	5	7	11	14	18	17	8	2	—	85	6	4	—	41

Maternity and Child Welfare.

MIDWIVES' ACT, 1902 and 1918.

During the year there were 7 Trained and 1 Untrained Midwives residing and practising in the Borough. There are also 6 Trained and 1 Untrained Midwives who live outside the limits, but who also practice inside the Borough. These are under the Staffordshire County Council. Only one Midwife now receives a subsidy of £40.

Under the Notification of Births Act, 717 births were notified by Midwives, 286 by Doctors, 20 by Health Visitors, 1 by Parent, and 248 by Registrar, practically all in the last group being cases attended by private practitioners.

In 72 cases a Midwife called in the help of a Doctor, sending to me the duplicate of the Medical Help Form. In 1922 there were 50 such calls and in 1921, 60. The reasons on account of which Medical help was called in are classified as follows:—

On account of the mother—

Difficult and Prolonged Labour	...	17
Obstructed Labour	... ..	4
Ruptured Perinæum	... ..	9
Ante and post partum hæmorrhage	...	7
Placenta Precvia	... ..	2
Retained Placenta	... ..	1
Adherent Membranes	... ..	1
Pyrexia, Chills, etc.	... ..	8
Albuminuria	... ..	1
Abortion	... ..	1

Abnormal Presentations—

Brow	... ..	1
Transverse	... ..	3
Breech	... ..	1
Footling	... ..	1
Funis	... ..	3
	—————	9

On account of Infant—

Pre-maturity and Feebleness	... ..	9
Ophthalmia	... ..	3

During the year 1923 £114 16s. 6d. was paid in fees to doctors for attendance on being summoned by a Midwife. Of this amount £23 3s. 9d. was recovered from patients, leaving a net payment of £91 12s. 9d., made by the Corporation. This amount includes several payments for cases attended during the years 1920, 1921 and 1922.

A special File is kept for each Midwife, and in this every item connected with her work is entered. For instance, every time she sends for Medical help, with particulars, cases of Still-Births, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Puerperal Fever, Dates of Inspection by Medical Officer of Health and by Health Visitors, and any other remarks. Each file is a complete record of her work. During the past year all the Midwives have been inspected by me and on many occasions by the Health Visitors.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

This work forms a very important branch of the Public Health work of the Borough. Its value cannot be over estimated and the testimony of this is to be found in the enormous reduction in the Infantile Mortality Rate.

ATTENDANCES AT THE WELFARE CENTRES.

In Dudley 5 Baby Clinics are held each week and they all are conducted by one or other of the Medical Officers.

1. Sir George Bean Child Welfare Institution (The Firs).

	1920	1921	1922	1923
Babies (New Cases)	716	820	494	510
„ (Old Cases)	2836	5057	4949	5345
	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	3552	5877	5443	5855
	-----	-----	-----	-----

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

	1920	1921	1922	1923
Mothers (New Cases)	39	49	17	24
„ (Old Cases)	135	195	107	124
	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	174	244	124	148
	-----	-----	-----	-----

2. Netherton Centre (Public Hall, Netherton).

	1920	1921	1922	1923
Babies (New Cases)	216	277	233	199
„ (Old Cases)	1237	1635	2419	2408
	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	1453	1912	2652	2607
	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. Holly Hall Centre (Free Library, Holly Hall).

	1920	1921	1922	1923
Babies (New Cases)	92	91	635	106
„ (Old Cases)	418	506	517	1783
	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL	510	597	1152	1889
	-----	-----	-----	-----

Grand Totals—	1920	1921	1922	1923
New Cases ...	1024	1188	1362	815
Old Cases ...	4491	7198	7885	9526
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total attendances	5515	8386	9247	10341
	-----	-----	-----	-----

18 Operations for Circumcisions were done at the Clinic at “The Firs”; last year there were 25.

The work of enlarging the Netherton Centre has not yet been finished. When completed this will make a great improvement and will be more comfortable for babies, mothers and all concerned.

DUDLEY'S BABY WEEK.

From July 15th to the 18th, Baby Week was celebrated in Dudley. A comprehensive programme was arranged, as follows:—

July 15th, Sunday—Special Sermons in all places of Worship.

Sunday, 8 p.m.—Inaugural Meeting in the Empire Picture Theatre.

July 16th and 17th—Lectures at all three Welfare Centres.

July 18th—A big social gathering of all mothers of the Centres at “The Firs,” at which an Address was given and an exhibition of Baby Garments, Furniture, etc., was displayed. A free tea was given to the mothers.

Dudley competed for the “ Lord Astor Shield ” given for the best Baby Week Celebration undertaken by any Local Authority. Though not successful in obtaining the Shield, Dudley obtained a Certificate of Merit for holding the fourth place on the list.

The best thanks of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee are due to the Committee of ladies who work as Voluntary Helpers at the different Centres. Also for their very valuable co-operation and work during the Baby Week Celebrations. Their help is very essential and lightens the work of the Centres very much for the staff.

The work of the two Health Visitors, Nurse Evans and Nurse Black, is set forth in the attached Tables, which show that their time is fully occupied.

BADLEY MEMORIAL HOME.

Under an agreement this Home undertakes to provide a Nurse to help in the Maternity and Child Welfare work of the Borough, and during the year 1923 the following work has been done :—

Number of cases visited	...	...	52
Number of visits made	...	...	550
Attendances at Clinic by Nurse	...	...	92

AND ALL THIS ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF GOOD WORK FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES COSTS THE RATES AN INCLUSIVE CHARGE OF RATHER LESS THAN **1d.** in the £.

REPORT OF HEALTH VISITORS.

DUDLEY AND KATE'S HILL DISTRICT.

(Nurse Evans).

BIRTHS, 1923.

BIRTHS.	Males	Fe- males	Total	BY WHOM NOTIFIED	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	412	385	797	Medical Practitioners Midwives	197 396
				Registrar	186
				Health Visitor	1
				Health Visitor	17
STILL-BIRTHS	15	10	25	Medical Practitioners Midwives	10 15
ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN (included above).	3	13	16		16
TOTAL ...	430	408	838	TOTAL ...	838

VISITS.	No.	FEEDING	No.
1 First Visits to Babies	783	Breast Fed	647
2 Re-visits to Babies	2385	Bottle Fed	73
3 Visits over 1 year	2377	Breast and Bottle Fed	53
4 General Advice	361	Died shortly after Birth	10
5 Visits to Midwives	67		
6 Ophthalmia	3	TOTAL	783
7 Re-visits to Measles	105		
8 Ante-Natal	309		
9 Re-visits to Ante-Natal ...	119		
10 House Inspection	139		
11 Common Yards	70		
12 Whooping Cough Cases			
13 Tuberculosis Cases	9		
14 Re-visits to Tuber. Cases ...	13		
15 Visits to Still-Births	16		
16 Special Visits	75		
17 Puerperal	1		
18 Diarrhoea Cases			
19 Re-visits to Ophthalmia.....	12		
20 Re-visits to Measles	33		
21 Visits to Blind	62		
TOTAL	6959		

NETHERTON AND WOODSIDE DISTRICT.

(Nurse Black).

BIRTHS, 1923.

BIRTHS.	Males	Fe- males	Total	BY WHOM NOTIFIED	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	243	232	475	Medical Practitioners Midwives Health Visitor Registrar Parent Monthly Nurse	89 321 3 62
STILL-BIRTHS	5	6	11	Medical Practitioners Midwives	7 4
ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN (included above).	3	2	5		5
TOTAL	251	240	491	TOTAL	491

VISITS	No.	FEEDING	No.
1 First Visits to Babies	446	Breast Fed	408
2 Re-visits to Babies	1536	Bottle Fed	21
3 Visits over 1 year	2517	Breast and Bottle Fed...	1
4 General Advice	68	Died shortly after Birth	16
5 Visits to Midwives	21	Still-Births	11
6 Ophthalmia	2		
8 Ante-Natal First Visits	69	TOTAL	457
9 Ante-Natal Re-visits	26		
10 House Inspection	25		
11 Common Yards	11		
14 Tuberculosis	19		
15 Tuberculosis Re-visits	6		
16 Visits to Still-Births	13		
17 Visits to Blind	97		
18 Special Visits	200		
TOTAL	5076		

Sanitary Administration.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

All I need say on this matter is that Dudley should have a better equipped Infectious Diseases Hospital than it has at present. This necessity was brought forward in my last Report and was also pointed out by my predecessor in his Report. At present we are quite unable to take in cases that require any surgical attention. It is true that all Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, and even some Enteric Fever cases, have up to the present been nursed at home. Still, at any time, a case of Laryngeal Diphtheria may arise and such a case should undoubtedly be admitted into Hospital.

I feel that it is my duty to bring this question of the need of a properly equipped Fever Hospital to your notice. Up to the present Dudley has been immune from any epidemic, but what has happened in the past is no guarantee of the future.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

Blind Persons Act, 1920.

At the end of 1923 there were 41 Blind persons (as defined by the Act) residing within the Borough. Three of these were under the age of 16 and the remainder over 16. The former being of School age period are under the Education Authorities. Two of the latter group are at the present time receiving home instructions in basket making and chair mending.

A Classified Table of all the Blind in the Borough was forwarded to the Ministry of Health last year. A Register is kept of all Blind persons and they are regularly visited by the Health Visitors, and a Report made to me for entry in the Register.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

I am glad to be able to say that a good microscope was added to the equipment of the small Laboratory at "The Firs" about the middle of 1923. The following examinations were made:—

Diphtheria Throat Swabs	...	...	18
Sputums for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	12
Hairs for Ringworm Spores	...	...	35

HOUSING.

As the accompanying Table shows, 24 houses of Class "C" type were put up by the Corporation on the Red Hill Site and only 11 by private enterprise. Since the inauguration of the State-aided Schemes to date (1919-1923) 302 houses have been erected by the Council and 37 by private enterprise, making a grand total of 339 houses.

Class	Description	Red Hill Site		Blower's Green Site		N'thfield Road Site		Burnt Tree Site		Total	
		1923	Total to Date	1923	Total to Date	1923	Total to Date	1923	Total to Date	1923	Total to Date
A	Living Room and 3 Bedrooms	—	46	—	60	—	50	—	20	—	176
B	Living Room, Parlour and 3 Bedrooms	—	12	—	44	—	14	—	18	—	88
B ₄	Living Room, Parlour and 4 Bedrooms	—	8	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	14
C	Living Room, Kitchen and 3 Bedrooms	24	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	24
		24	90	—	104	—	70	—	38	24	302

By Private Enterprise, 1923—11 Houses. Total to date—37.

COST OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

The last remark I wish to add to this Report is that the total inclusive outlay in all the Public Health work, including the Sanitary Department, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases work (but excluding the Maternity and Child Welfare) was approximately £3,464 during the year, or just a fraction over 5d. in the £. Including the Maternity and Child Welfare work, the total inclusive charge is approximately 6d. in the £.

In concluding this Report I beg to express to the Council and Chairman and Members of the Health and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees my thanks for their help and support during the past year.

Again, I would like to personally thank all the ladies of the Voluntary Committee for their help to me in the Baby Work of the Borough.

The Town Clerk, Borough Engineer and the Borough Treasurer and Mr. Atkinson, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, are likewise entitled to my thanks for their cordial help. Dr. Furniss, my colleague, has given me great assistance in my work, with his ever willing and congenial help. Nurse Evans and Nurse Black, the two Health Visitors, have worked hard and well, in spite of the fact that there is more work in the Borough than they can satisfactorily cope with.

My two lady Clerks, Miss Tomlinson and Miss Bradley, who do all the Public Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and School work, have helped me enormously.

To all these Members of my Staff I extend my best thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. STANLEY BLAKER.

April, 1924.

1. TABLE SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE MORTALITY OF CERTAIN TOWNS IN 1923
AND THEIR BIRTH RATES, Etc.

TOWN.	Popula- tion.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Respira- tory Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Infantile Death Rate.
England and Wales ...	—	19.7	11.6	100	—	—	69
Burton-on-Trent	49,670	20.31	12.14	0.42	1.73	0.90	75
Wolverhampton	106,700	21.4	11.7	0.65	2.40	0.73	76
D U D L E Y	58,150	22.7	12.61	1.20	3.47	0.78	86
Wigan	91,640	22.44	13.40	0.25	—	0.97	101
Worcester	49,860	18.5	10.9	—	—	0.92	57
Birmingham	936,079	20.4	11.0	.7	1.98	0.92	72

II. Deaths from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases (including Diarrhoea) were :—

Diseases.	Total Deaths.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and upwards.
Scarlet Fever	2	—	2
Measles	55	55	—
Diphtheria	3	1	2
Enteric Fever	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	3	3	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	29	21	8
TOTALS	93	80	13

III. The numbers of Deaths from the Principal Zymotic Diseases in the various Wards were :—

Diseases.	St. Thomas	Castle	St. Edmund	St. James	St. John	Nether- ton	Wood- side	Guest Hospital	Boro' Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	I	—
Diphtheria ...	—	I	—	—	—	I	—	I	—
Measles ...	16	9	I	6	3	14	3	3	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I
Whooping Cough ...	I	—	—	—	I	I	—	—	—
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea ...	5	4	2	4	2	11	I	—	—
Influenza ...	I	I	I	2	—	2	I	2	—

IV. Causes of Death at Different Periods during the year 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Civilians only).	Sex	AGGREGATE.									
		All ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and up- wards
ALL CAUSES ...	M ... F ...	380 350	64 40	30 28	22 28	15 16	20 16	37 53	77 50	67 60	48 59
1. Enteric Fever ...	M ... F ...	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
2. Small-pox ...	M ... F ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
3. Measles ...	M ... F ...	26 29	7 4	10 10	6 13	3 2	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —
4. Scarlet Fever ...	M ... F ...	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Whooping Cough ...	M ... F ...	2 1	2 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6. Diphtheria...	M ... F ...	1 2	1 —	— —	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
7. Influenza ...	M ... F ...	4 6	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 2	2 2	— 2	— —	— —
8. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	M ... F ...	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
9. Meningococcal meningitis	M ... F ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M ... F ...	15 28	— —	— —	— —	— 3	6 5	7 14	2 5	— 1	— —
11. Other Tuberculous diseases	M ... F ...	3 5	1 —	— —	— 1	1 1	1 2	— 1	— —	— —	— —
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	M ... F ...	19 23	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	4 4	6 11	9 5	— 3

V. DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

The subjoined table gives the Deaths at various age periods for the last fourteen years.

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Under 1 year	193	214	162	218	209	181	154	153	179	135	184	143	127	113
Between 1 and 5 yrs.	102	120	65	145	103	102	89	118	140	77	71	67	83	110
Between 5 and 15 yrs.	24	28	34	38	37	32	36	50	71	28	41	35	36	37
Between 15 and 25 yrs.	24	32	33	37	32	25	42	30	53	35	29	25	39	40
Between 25 and 65 yrs.	233	233	265	277	260	271	240	254	341	228	262	205	247	213
Over 65 years	156	193	238	196	205	247	226	182	175	222	243	191	207	217

TABLE VI.**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Home Work.****1.—INSPECTION.**

Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)	64	10	—
Workshops ... (including Workshop Laundries)	1136	8	—
Workplaces ... (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1200	18	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp'tor	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	—	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ...	3	2	—	—
{ unsuitable or ...	4	6	—	—
{ defective ...	3	3	—	—
{ not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)...	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ...	6	6	—	—
Other offences ... (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	18	19	—	—

TABLE VI.—Continued.

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE-SOME PREMISES, SECTION 108			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110		
	Lists received from employers				Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils	Number of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils	Prosecutions		Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises	In-stances	Notices served	Prosecutions	In-stances	Orders made (S. 110)	Prosecution (Sec. 109, 110)	
	Twice in the year		Once in the year	Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists			Failing to send lists									
	Lists	Outwork's			Lists	Outwork's		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
Wearing Apparel—																
(1) making, &c.	18	98	...	...	13	74	...	34 employed cautioned	23	...	...	...	...	...	...
Furniture & Upholst'y	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
File making	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cables and Chains...	9	260	...	...	10	113	...	...	146	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	27	358	...	...	23	187	...	...	169	...	...	...	...	...	...

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year (1)		Class (1)		No. (2)	
Number (2)					
446	General Workshops ...	Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :— Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133) ... Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)			
59	Workshop Bakehouses				
		Other	...	...	...
		Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—			
		Certificates granted during the year	...	...	...
		In use at the end of the year	...	...	...
505	TOTAL ...				2

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

ANNUAL REPORT

*of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for
the Year ended December 31st, 1923.*

Staff of the Sanitary Department:

FRED ATKINSON, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. Inst.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

H. G. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

S. PARGETER, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

H. PEACOCK, Clerk.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Twentieth Annual Report and Summary of Work carried out in my Department during the year ending December 31st, 1923.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

Houses provided with proper drainage	2
Water closets or drains cleansed, repaired, or re-constructed	208
Accumulations of manure, etc., removed	6
Ashes accommodation provided	51
Dilapidated privies or ashpits re-built, repaired or abolished	10
Nuisances arising from keeping fowls, pigeons, etc. (abated)	8
Cases of overcrowding dealt with	12
Bakehouses limewashed	6
Workshops cleansed and limewashed	1
Sanitary Conveniences in Factories or Workshops :—	
New provided	2
Repaired	3
Cleansed	3
Separate accommodation for females provided ...	3

Wash-houses rebuilt, repaired, or new sinks provided	...	46
Dwelling-houses repaired	... ..	195
Dwelling-houses cleansed	... ..	160
Dwelling-houses provided with sufficient water supply	...	5
Houses provided with spouting (where a nuisance)	...	38
Yard paving re-laid or repaired	... ..	9
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	... ..	4
Preliminary Notices issued	... ..	674
Statutory Notices issued	... ..	340

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

There are at present 505 Workshops on the Register, including 59 Bakehouses. During the year ending December 31st, 1923, 1,136 visits of inspection were made, and many minor complaints were remedied on the occupier's notice being called thereto.

Twenty-four "Notices of Occupation" were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, with respect to workshops within the Borough, all of which were visited and added to the Register.

The Inspector of Factories complained in 18 instances with respect to defects and defaults in Factories and Workshops; of these 12 complaints were remedied, in two no action was taken, and the remainder were in hand at the end of the year.

The Sanitary Conveniences of the Factories and Workshops complained of were remedied as follows:—"New" provided in two cases; six conveniences cleansed and repaired; and separate accommodation for females provided in three cases.

Special attention was directed to the cleansing of Workshops and Bakehouses, and it was only necessary to serve notices in seven instances upon the occupiers; all of which were complied with.

OUTWORKERS.

During the year 27 Lists of Outworkers have been received from Employers, containing 358 names and addresses; 187 of which were from districts outside the Borough of Dudley. These were forwarded to the respective Councils in whose District the outworker resided; 169 visits were paid to Outworkers' premises.

I also received 8 Lists containing 23 names and addresses from other Authorities, making a total of 381 Outworkers dealt with.

It was necessary in 34 instances to caution employers for not sending in their Lists of Outworkers as required by the Factory and Workshop Act.

There was no case of work being carried out on infected premises during the year.

The following is a list of trades carried on in the Workshops :—

Joinery	13	Bellows	1	Rivets	2
Upholstering	4	Boots	23	Dressmaking	13
Ashpans	1	Builders	4	Tailoring	26
Breeze	6	Jeweller	1	Millinery	22
Smiths	13	Ropes	3	Fenders	3
Sheet Metal	3	Pictures	2	Bottling	2
Carriage Building	2	Art Metal	4	Tinware	1
Saddlers	2	Laundry	1	Motor Cycles	3
Plumber	1	Baskets	1	Brewing	1
Weights & Scales ...	4	Curriers	2	Cabinet Maker	1
Dry Soap Packing	1	Dyeing	1	Paints	2
Garage	4	Wheelwright ...	6	Drugs	1
Umbrellas	1	Clogs	2	Electrical Engineers...	1
Marine Stores	2	Knitting	1	Galvanizing	2
Chains	163	Nails	83	Gas Fitting.....	2
Boat Building	2	Printing	1	Cooper.....	1
Staples	1	Chairs	1	Bakehouses	59
Sweets	1	Lime Kilns	2		

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are at present 13 Registered Common Lodging Houses within the Borough, accommodating 263 persons.

756 visits of inspection were made of these houses, and minor defects remedied by occupiers on their attention being called thereto.

It was only necessary to take action in three instances with respect to the general condition and sanitary arrangements of these premises, of which two were complied with, and the other was in hand at the end of the year.

During the year eight applications for the re-registration of these houses were granted.

All the Common Lodging Houses are visited weekly, and due observation kept that the Bye-laws are posted in each kitchen and that sleeping rooms are ticketed showing the maximum number of lodgers allowed.

Every Lodging House is swept daily, floors washed weekly, and the premises lime-washed twice yearly.

With the exception of one case of Tuberculosis, no case of Infectious Disease was notified from any of these houses during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There are 14 "Registered" and 12 "Licensed" Slaughter Houses within the Borough, all of which are kept under observation.

During the year 12 applications for the renewal of the licensed slaughter houses were granted.

All slaughter houses, shops, and markets where food is sold have been regularly visited, and the following mentioned foodstuffs have been surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for food :—

4 cows, 2 calves, 6 pigs, 1 goat, 348 lbs. beef, 547 lbs. corned meat, 27 lbs. tongue, 65 tins miscellaneous tinned fish, fruit, etc., 1,561 tins of condensed milk, 7 boxes of fish, and 1 bag mussels.

It is satisfactory to state that no proceedings were necessary with regard to the deposit or exposure of unsound food during the past year, and the butchers of this Town readily call me in for advice, and for some years have accepted my decisions without exception.

I would, however, repeat what I stated in my Annual Report of 1911, that meat inspection would be less difficult, if all private slaughter houses throughout the country were abolished, and public abattoirs were universal ; but, in my opinion, it would be useless to erect an abattoir in Dudley, even if powers were obtained to close the present private slaughter houses, as I feel sure butchers would use slaughter houses outside the district.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 34 Cowkeepers (who also act as Purveyors of Milk) and 137 Purveyors on the Register, the approximate number of cows kept within the Borough being 264.

Every Cowshed and Milkshop is visited at least twice during the year and special attention directed to cleanliness, and it is very satisfactory to find from the Analyst's Reports that the quality of the milk sold within the Borough continues to be of a high standard, and that there has not been a single prosecution with regard to the adulteration of such an important article of food.

I am pleased to report the continued increase of milkshops selling milk which has been sterilized and bottled at the dairy ; during the year there were added to the register 46 people who sold milk only in this manner,

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

All cases of Infectious Disease have been visited and a printed copy of your Medical Officer's instructions left at each house, and all infected bedding and clothing was removed to the Borough Hospital where they are steam disinfected, whilst the infected rooms were fumigated or sprayed with disinfectant.

In all cases of death from Tuberculosis and where patients are removed to a Sanatorium, the houses and bedding are disinfected.

During the year 76 beds, 126 pillows, 54 bolsters, 99 sheets, 161 blankets, 56 counterpanes, and 21 articles of miscellaneous clothing, curtains, carpets, etc., were removed to the Hospital for disinfection, and 91 premises were fumigated, while the Disinfector was out of order.

In addition to disinfection after Infectious Disease, 1,000 blankets were disinfected for distribution under the Mayor's Relief Fund.

CANAL BOAT INSPECTION.

Periodical inspection was made of canal boats passing through the district ; 5 boats were inspected during the year. Of these 3 were found to have 8 infringements of the Acts and Regulations, which were dealt with by the usual complaint notices and letters. No cases of Infectious Disease were found on any Canal Boat, nor was it found necessary to detain any boat for cleansing or disinfection. No legal proceedings were taken.

DESTRUCTOR.

The destructor during the year has maintained its beneficial work by consuming all light and perishable matter which otherwise would have to be buried on the tips.

The following-mentioned refuse has been consumed during the past twelve months :

2,116 tubs fish offal, 3,471 loads ashpit and dust bin refuse, 418 loads trade refuse, 65 loads butchers' offal, 197 loads fruiterers' refuse, 278 loads market garbage, 9 pigs, 123 dogs, 1 goat, 4 cows, and 2 calves, also a very large quantity of diseased meat and unsound fruit and fish, and miscellaneous tinned goods, which have been surrendered as unfit for food.

No complaints are received as regards any nuisance arising from the Destructor.

DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACTS, 1877 AND 1917.

During the year circulars and posters were received from the Ministry of Agriculture for distribution and posting within the Borough.

The following were among the subjects dealt with under these Acts :—(1) Silver Leaf Order, 1923.

(2) Wart Disease of Potatoes Order, 1923.

No case of infection was reported within the Borough.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Your Committee have not sanctioned any expenditure under this Act, other than continuing to pay for rats destroyed.

Every assistance is given to occupiers whose premises are infested with rats; such as the laying of baits and the most efficient poisons to be used.

Since your Committee commenced to pay 2d. per dead rat, 9,273 have been brought to the Sanitary Department.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT, 1913.

All cases of alleged Mental Deficiency have been investigated by me, and in one case only was it found advisable to obtain an order.

There are now 11 cases under Orders at the Dudley Poor Law Institution, and one case under Order at the Calderstones Institution, Whalley, near Blackburn.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACTS.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a)	Total	...	...	...	...	35
(b)	As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	24

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	472
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	85
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

2. Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	0
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Etc., Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
	(a) By owners	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	472
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—

(a) By owners	242
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	0

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

Frequent visits are paid to the few manufacturers of Bedding and upholstery in the town, and when thought advisable samples are taken for examination.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

I beg to report as follows on the work carried out under these Acts during the year ending December 31st, 1923 :—

114 samples were taken, consisting of 22 articles, by your Inspector for analysis ; of these only 5 were adulterated, *i.e.*—

(1) Medical Prescription.	Deficient of 20% of Bi-Bismuth Carbonate	Carbonate of Soda, and and Sodium Bi-Carbonate.	15% Bismuth Carb.	Unofficial
(2) Sponge Cake.	Percentage of Boron	stated as Boric Acid, .40%	Unofficial	
(3) Sponge Cake.	Percentage of Boron	stated as Boric Acid, .41%	Unofficial	
(4) Sponge Cake.	Percentage of Boron	stated as Boric Acid, .27%	Unofficial	

(5)	Milk.	Deficient of 8% of its Natural Milk Fat.	Official.
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Of the 28 samples of milk submitted for analysis, one was found to be deficient of 8% of its natural milk fat and the vendor was warned ; no proceedings were taken in this case.

Three samples of Sponge Cake were found to be adulterated, containing excessive Boron Preservatives, which was due to the use of liquid eggs in the manufacture ; the vendors were warned and further samples taken proved genuine, liquid eggs having been discontinued for the making of these cakes.

One Medical Prescription was found wrongly dispensed, and the vendor was warned.

With these exceptions all the samples were found to be genuine, drugs being in accordance with the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia, and all the milks and butters free from preservatives.

The South Staffordshire Water has been chemically analysed four times during the year, and in all cases was found to be of a high degree of purity and satisfactory for drinking purposes, but in two cases the water was found to be very hard.

The samples taken for analysis were :—

Butter	...	...	...	3	Pepper	...	...	...	6
New Milk	...	...	...	28	Olive Oil	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	7	Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	2
Compound Liquorice					Margarine	...	...	...	14
Powder...	...	...	...	1	Castor Oil	...	...	...	4
Epsom Salts	...	...	...	1	Carbonate of Magnesia	...	...	...	1
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	9	Glycerine	...	...	...	3
Self-Raising Flour	...	...	...	1	Sponge Cakes	...	...	...	17
Cream	...	...	...	1	Cocoa	...	...	...	4
Cake Flour	...	...	...	1	Medical Prescriptions	...	...	...	7
Borax	...	...	...	1	Linseed Liquorice and				
Cheese	...	...	...	1	Chlorodyne	...	...	...	1

GENERAL REMARKS.

It will be seen from the “ Summary of Work carried out ” at the beginning of the Report, that 1,014 Notices have been served during the past year for the abatement of nuisances, in addition to a large number of letters of intimation.

Overcrowding is still very serious within the Borough, and we are practically helpless in this matter owing to the continued shortage of houses.

There are a great many dwellings unfit for habitation and not capable of being made reasonably fit, but until we have more new houses it is useless to recommend the closure and demolition of the existing unfit dwelling-houses because the people have nowhere to go.

As mentioned in previous Reports, Dudley is now a water carriage town, very few houses being supplied with privy middens, and these are situate in outlying districts where there are no sewers.

In this respect we are well ahead of many large towns one could mention, but with regard to general housing conditions the standard is low. The most urgent need, from a sanitary point of view, is the provision of a large number of new houses so that hundreds of our miserable habitations could be closed and demolished.

In concluding my Twentieth Annual Report I wish to be permitted to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued confidence, to acknowledge assistance received from Officials of other departments, and to thank the Staff of the Sanitary Department for their loyal co-operation.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED ATKINSON, M.S.I.A.,

Cert. R. San. Inst.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

*on House Refuse Removal
:: for the Year 1923. ::*

To the Chairman and Members of the Team Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report on House Refuse Removal for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

HORSES.

The number of horses kept for the collection of dust bin refuse in the Borough is six.

CARTS.

The number of carts used in the Sanitary Department is 13, of which six are used by the Contractor. Two carts are covered with a light tarpaulin sheet to prevent the scattering of light refuse during the cartage to the Destructor. This method has proved very satisfactory.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.

Six teams are wholly employed with the collection of dust bin refuse throughout the Borough, which is carried out by Corporation workmen.

Every endeavour is made to make this collection a weekly one, and the principal streets, whenever possible, receive more frequent attention.

The ashpits in the whole of the Borough are dealt with by contract.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

TOWN & KATE'S HILL		NETHERTON		WOODSIDE	
Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1923	Dust Bins emptied once or twice weekly, Dec. 31st, 1923	Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1923	Dust Bins emptied weekly Dec. 31st, 1923	Ashpits emptied during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1923	Dust Bins emptied weekly Dec. 31st, 1923
7,524	3,590	4,272	1,005	1,546	757

The number of loads removed during the year from dust bins by the Corporation workmen were 12,260. In addition to the above refuse, 970 loads of clinker were removed from the destructor.

REMARKS.

The number of dust bins emptied was increased by 111 during the year.

The policy of emptying ashpits by contract has again justified itself, the present contractor carrying out his duties with every satisfaction.

Very little nuisance is now caused by the removal of house refuse, which is no doubt due to the present water carriage system.

I again wish to be permitted to thank the Chairman and Members of the Team Committee for their support during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED ATKINSON, M.S.I.A.,

Cert. R. San. Inst.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.